CLAIMS

1.   An operating system selector operable to boot a non-EFI compatible operating system where the operating system files are stored in a GPT partition of a data storage drive, the data storage drive having a first address set,

the operating system selector being operable to;

read a GUID partition table to identify address information relating to the GPT partition,

define the GPT partition as a virtual data storage drive having a second address set,

call an address mapper and pass the address information to the address mapper, and

perform a loading step to boot the operating system.

2.   An operating system selector according to claim 1 operable to read the data storage drive to identify bootable legacy partitions and bootable GPT partitions, and generate a boot menu in accordance with the identified bootable partitions.

3.   An operating system selector according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the OS selector comprises a boot code stored in a legacy master boot record of the data storage drive.

4.   An operating system selector according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the loading step comprises reading a further legacy master boot record of the GPT partition, loading the legacy boot code into memory and passing control to the legacy boot code.

5.   An operating system selector according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the address mapper is operable to hook commands to access the data storage drive, and, wherein the command comprises an address in the second address set, to map the address to the corresponding address of the first address set.

6.   An operating system selector according to claim 5 wherein the address mapper is a terminate and stay resident program.

7.   An operating system selector according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the GPT partition type comprises a partition type which is the image of a legacy hard disk

drive and wherein the step of defining the GPT partition as a data storage drive comprises the step of setting a BIOS drive identification number corresponding to the GPT partition to 80h.

8.   An operating system selector according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the GPT partition comprises a partition type which is the image of a legacy floppy disk and wherein the step of defining the GPT partition as a data storage drive comprises the step of setting a BIOS drive identification number corresponding to the GPT partition to 0h.

9.   An operating system selector according to claim 7 or claim 8 wherein the address mapper is operable to perform the step of defining the GPT partition as a virtual data storage device.

10.   A data storage drive comprising a data storage area, the data storage area comprising a master boot record comprising an operating system selector according to any one of the preceding claims, and a GPT-managed area comprising at least one GPT partition comprising files of an operating system.

11.   A data storage drive according to claim 10 wherein the GPT partition comprises a further legacy master boot record.

12.   A data storage drive according to claim 10 or claim 11 wherein the data storage area comprises at least one legacy partition.

13.   A data storage drive according to any one of claims 10 to 12 comprising a hard disk drive.

14.   A computer comprising an operating system selector, the operating system selector being operable to boot a non-EFI compatible operating system where the operating system files are stored in a GPT partition of a data storage drive,
        the operating system selector being operable to:
        read a GUID partition table to identify address information relating to the GPT partition,
        define the GPT partition as a virtual data storage drive,

call an address mapper and pass the address information to the address mapper, and
perform a loading step to boot the operating system.

15.   A computer comprising memory and a data storage drive, the data storage drive
5   comprising a GPT partition,

the computer being operable to load an operating system selector into the memory
and run the operating system selector,

the operating system selector being operable to operable to boot a non-EFI
compatible operating system where the operating system files are stored in the GPT partition
10   of the data storage drive,

the operating system selector being operable to;

read a GUID partition table to identify address information relating to the GPT
partition,

define the GPT partition as a virtual data storage drive,
15   call an address mapper and pass the address information to the address mapper, and
perform a loading step to boot the operating system.

16.   A method of booting a non-EFI compatible operating system when the operating
system files are stored in a GPT partition of a data storage drive, the data storage drive, the
20   method comprising the steps of;

reading a GUID partition table to identify address information relating to the GPT
partition,

defining the GPT partition as a virtual data storage drive,

calling an address mapper and passing the address information to the address mapper,
25   and

performing a loading step to boot the operating system.